



EMC News

November 2, 1999

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Coordinator's Report

Recruitment efforts to solicit new EMC members are underway. Erin and I have mailed out flyers advertising the membership drive to a wide range of groups and organizations, hoping to reach individuals who may be interested in serving. Press releases have been distributed to newspapers, radio and television stations, which I will follow with phone calls to encourage a story or announcement. We are also making a special effort to encourage new membership by speaking at Town Board or community meetings. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas on how to recruit new members.

Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian

Chair-Nominating Committee Report

The Chair-nominating Committee is exploring several possibilities for the Chair and Vice Chair positions, but nothing is final yet. We will present the slate at the December 8 EMC meeting, at which time the full council will elect a new Chair and three Vice-Chairs.

Submitted by Lynn Leopold and Bruce Johnson

Unique Natural Areas Committee Report

The Unique Natural Areas Committee met on Wednesday, October 20, to review draft copies of the data sheets that will appear for each UNA. There was much discussion about layout and content. Different committee members are working on revising sections of the Introduction and other text that explain how to use the guide, the evaluation procedures used for each UNA, and various appendices. The Committee still hopes to have the final report printed before the end of this millennium!

There was also a long discussion about including a rating system, developed by Nancy Ostman and Robert Wesley, which rates each of the UNAs, based on 11 criteria. Cumulative points were assigned to each UNA that reflect the special features of the area and the sites overall value relative to all the other UNAs. The rating system will provide additional data in numerical form that helps describe the importance of each site and its need for protection.

The next UNA Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8 at 4:00 at the Planning Department.

Submitted by Lynn Leopold

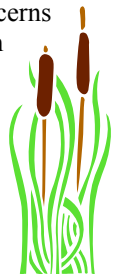
Environmental Review Committee Report

The committee began its meeting with a discussion of the proposed intermunicipal sewer agreement, with Larry Sharpsteen describing the Town of Lansing's efforts, which are an outgrowth of their Lansing 2010 planning process to bring sewer service to strategic areas of the town. Lansing is trying to concentrate development in the areas which currently have higher density and where the soils are least appropriate for farming. The sewer project has an obvious environmental component in the elimination of failed and deteriorating septic fields. It was noted that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will be taking lead agency status on the eventual intermunicipal agreement. A Citizens Planning Alliance forum with a report on the current status of negotiations, to be held on October 28, was noted.

As the notes from the September meeting had been misplaced, the committee revisited issues discussed at that meeting to provide a clear record and plan of action. First the committee discussed the Four Directions Center in Caroline; oddly, a negative declaration statement from the Tompkins County Health Department was received by fax to Barbara Ebert from the EMC coordinator, Mikel Shakarjian, since the September Environmental Review Committee meeting. The committee was not aware the "clock was ticking," and decided to send comments anyway. The committee supports the Health Department's concerns as noted in their earlier response to the applicants, and wants further information about the proximity to the UNA, the coordination of this initiative with New York State's Open Space Plan (because the site is adjacent to a state forest), and answers to questions about the source of water on the site, the disposal of sewage, and a clarification on who owns the land and who is the applicant.

Finally, the committee rediscussed Cornell's Radiation Disposal Site and drafted a resolution for consideration by the full EMC. A letter identifying additional concerns will be sent to the DEC; no notice has been received regarding the official timeframe for the DEC's review.

Submitted by Barbara Ebert



Please note the following schedule for municipal reports through the end of the year. After November,

we will re-examine the process and set the schedule for 2000.

EMC Municipal Reports Schedule	
November 1999	
Bruce Johnson	Village of Freeville
Larry Sharpsteen	Town of Lansing
Donna Jean Darling	Town of Newfield
Jean Foley	Town of Ulysses

Chair's Report

No Report Submitted

Executive Committee Report

No Report Submitted

County Towers Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Education Committee Report

No Report Submitted

NESTS Committee Report

No Report Submitted